

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 COA-02 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 CIEP-02

OMB-01 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 074124

R 010721 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7574

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2705

E. O. 11652: ADS MAY 1, 1974

TAGS: PBOR, ENRG, KS

SUBJECT: KOREA- JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS

REF: SEOUL 1440

1. ACCORDING TO ROKG FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, APRIL 23-29 WORKING LEVEL MEETING IN SEOUL MADE PROGRESS BUT DID NOT COMPLETELY RESOLVE ALL REMAINING QUESTIONS IN BILATERAL TALKS ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL RESOURCES IN DISPUTED SHELF AREAS. DRAFTING OF AGREEMENT MAY BE COMPLETED AT NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD IN TOKYO MAY 20.

2. WITH ROKG CONFIRMING KIM- OHIRA DISCUSSION AND AGREEING TO " OPERATOR FORMULA" UNDER WHICH EACH CONCESSION HOLDER RESPONSIBLE FOR TAXES AND ROYALTIES ONLY TO GOVERNMENT WHICH GRANTED CONCESSION, MAJOR ISSUES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SETTLED WITH EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES MAKING SERIOUS DRAFTING EFFORTS AT WEEK LONG SEOUL MEETING, HOWEVER, SEVERAL LEGAL AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AROSE. THESE INCLUDE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIFIC OR GENERAL DAMAGES TO THIRD PARTIES AND INCLUSION OF " NO FAULT" PROVISIONS; FIXING COMMON SYSTEM FOR GRADUAL RELEASE OF UNWANTED PORTIONS
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OF CONCESSION BLOCKS, TREATMENT OF "SOLE RISK" OPERATIONS
BY ONE JOINT DEVELOPMENT PARTNER ONLY; UNIT EXPLOITATION OF
GAS OR OIL FIELDS STRADDLING JOINT DEVELOPMENT AREA BOUNDARY;
AND PRIOR CONSULTATION PROVISIONS IF EITHER PARTY SEEKS
DELIMITATION AGREEMENT WITH THIRD PARTY AFFECTING JOINT
DEVELOPMENT AREA. KOREANS HOPE TO SETTLE THESE AND MORE
MINOR DIFFERENCES AT TOKYO MEETING, BUT FEEL HARD LINE
JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS MAY DELAY AGREEMENT.
UNDERHILL

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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